REMARKS

Amendments

The claims are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice, and to delete superfluous language. New claims 11-16 are directed to further aspects of the invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., page 4, line 2 – page 5, line 12.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants will provide new copies of the references EP 0 930 096 and EP 0 309 033.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Goldstone et al. and Scott

Claims 1-5 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Goldstone et al. (US 6,360,545) in combination with Scott (US 2,181,074). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Goldstone et al. disclose a containment enclosure for a cryogenic unit (e.g., an air separation unit). The containment enclosure comprises a chamber in which the cryogenic unit is located, a chamber wall having thermal insulation, and a sump for receiving liquid leaking from the cryogenic unit. The chamber wall is said to be impermeable to liquid leaking from the cryogenic unit. See column 2, lines 22-33.

The thermal insulation in the chamber wall disclosed by Goldstone et al. is made up of thermally insulating bricks. The bricks can be made of pre-compressed mineral fiber such as rock wool. They can also be made of foam glass. See column 2, lines 38-40 and column 5, lines 48-55. The thermally insulating bricks are used, rather than loose fill thermal insulation, to facilitate assembly of the enclosure and facilitate access to the cryogenic unit.

As shown in the Figures, the containment enclosure comprises a frame 3 to which outer walls 4,5,6 are attached. The outer walls are made of, for example, carbon steel plates. Inside the enclosure and adjacent the outer walls are layers of insulating bricks 10,11. Between layers of the bricks layers of thin aluminum foil 13,14 can be provided. Finally, the walls are lined internally with impermeable panels 20,21. The panels 20,21 are attached to the outer walls by a series of studs 22 that pass throughout the layers of bricks.

Goldstone et al. do not disclose a containment enclosure for containing a cryogenic unit wherein the walls of the enclosure are each lined with a sheet metal jacket made up of several panels, in which, in the direction of the height of the enclosure, the joints of the panels all have essentially the same distance from one another.

Scott (US 2,181,074) discloses heat insulating panels comprising a first face of reticulated metal (see 10 in the figures) which is attached at spaced points (see 12 in the figures) to a sheet metal cover (see 11 in the figures) which forms the opposite face of the panel. In between the two faces there is provide heat insulating material such as glass wool (see 14 in the figures).

However, Scott provides no suggestion of using such a panel in an enclosure for containment of a cryogenic unit. Instead, it is evident that the panels of Scott are intended for use in insulating high temperature operations. See, e.g., page 1, lines 6-10 which discusses the problems with insulating high temperature equipment. See page 1, line 28-page 2, line 25 which describes the use of heat reflective insulating materials. See page 2, lines 42-46 which discusses expansion of the sheet metal cover due to heat. See page 2, line 72-page 3, line 9 which describes painting the faces with aluminum paint that can withstand high temperatures.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the disclosure of Scott to modify a containment enclosure for housing a cryogenic unit such as described by Goldstone et al. Scott provides no suggestion as to how one should insulate and isolate a cryogenic system, which is the concern of the Goldstone et al. disclosure.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Goldstone et al., taken alone or in combination with the disclosure of Scott, fails to render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Goldstone et al. and Sharma et al.

Claims 1-5 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Goldstone et al. (US 6,360,545) in combination with Sharma et al. (US 5,548,933). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The disclosure of Goldstone et al. is discussed above. As noted, Goldstone et al. do not disclose a containment enclosure for containing a cryogenic unit wherein the walls of the enclosure are each lined with a sheet metal jacket made up of several panels, in which, in the

direction of the height of the enclosure, the joints of the panels all have essentially the same distance from one another.

The disclosure of Sharma et al. is unrelated to containment enclosures for cryogenic units. Instead, the disclosure of Sharma et al. pertains to the field of oil and petrochemicals and relates specifically to a fixed roof flammable liquid storage tank which has a fire extinguishing device.

As described at column 7, line 33 – column 8, line 7, Sharma et al.'s fixed roof flammable liquid storage tank is a conical tank having a slope ranging from 30° to 60° to the base and having a stable and hydraulically leak proof bottom. The conical circular wall is made of plurality of metal plates that are joined together in continuation and in alignment to form the upwardly and inwardly tapered conical wall.

However, Sharma et al. provide no suggestion of using such a panel in an enclosure for containment of a cryogenic unit. The conical tank of Sharma et al. is designed for storage of flammable liquids. It is not designed for storage of cryogenic fluids or enclosure of a system unit that operates under cryogenic conditions.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the flammable liquid storage tank of Sharma et al. to modify a containment enclosure for housing a cryogenic unit such as described by Goldstone et al. Sharma et al. provides no suggestion as to how one should insulate and isolate a cryogenic system, which is the concern of the Goldstone et al. disclosure.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Goldstone et al., taken alone or in combination with the disclosure of Sharma et al., fails to render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Goldstone et al. and Voegeli et al.

Claims 1-10 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Goldstone et al. (US 6,360,545) in combination with Voegeli et al. (US 4,739,597). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The disclosure of Goldstone et al. is discussed above. As noted, Goldstone et al. do not disclose a containment enclosure for containing a cryogenic unit wherein the walls of the enclosure are each lined with a sheet metal jacket made up of several panels, in which, in the

direction of the height of the enclosure, the joints of the panels all have essentially the same distance from one another.

The disclosure of Voegeli et al. is unrelated to containment enclosures for cryogenic units. Instead, the disclosure of Voegeli et al. pertains to an enclosure that can be easily assembled and disassembled and is suitable as a facility for painting and drying automobiles. See column 1, lines 29-44.

As described at column 1, lines 42-64, the enclosure of Voegeli et al. has a pair of frames that are spaced apart in a longitudinal direction. Each frame includes a pair of upstanding portions and a connecting portion. The latter connects the upper ends of the upstanding portions. Each frame includes a receiver means, for example, in the form of channels. A plurality of wall panels is positioned longitudinally between the frames along the upright and connecting portions. Each wall panel has a first longitudinal end that mates with the channel of one frame and an opposite second longitudinal end that mates with the channel of the other frame.

However, Voegeli et al. provide no suggestion of using such a frame-wall panel arrangement in an enclosure for containment of a cryogenic unit. The enclosure of Voegeli et al. is designed for ease of assembly and disassembly and to provide an environment for operators to perform certain tasks. It is not designed for storage of cryogenic fluids or enclosure of a system unit that operates under cryogenic conditions.

Moreover, the rejection fails to describe how Voegeli et al. disclose the features recited in applicants' claims. For example, there is no indication in the rejection where Voegeli et al. disclose that the wall panels are made up of a frame of U-sections that run peripherally on four sides. Compare applicants' claim 6.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the enclosure of Voegeli et al. to modify a containment enclosure for housing a cryogenic unit such as described by Goldstone et al. Voegeli et al. provides no suggestion as to how one should insulate and isolate a cryogenic system, which is the concern of the Goldstone et al. disclosure.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Goldstone et al., taken alone or in combination with the disclosure of Voegeli et al., fails to render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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